

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The figures have been amended so as to provide uniform thick lines and reference numerals.

Attachment: Four Replacement Drawing Sheets (including Figs. 1-6)

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 14 has been added to further define the invention. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Drawings

You objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as failing to show a fully assembled device with non-block components. We respectfully traverse this objection because the drawings need only include so much as to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to understand the invention. Further, as set forth in Rule 1.83(a), "conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (e.g., a labeled rectangular box).

In the present case, we do not claim to have invented: a gripping device such as a pliers or the like, as is represented by gripping section 30; a handle section as represented by section 10; a flashlight; or an ice scraper. Instead, we have invented and claimed a new and useful combination of elements. Although each of the elements themselves may be old, the combination of them is novel and useful. Accordingly, the drawings denote the known elements in the form of labeled rectangular boxes, as is specifically permitted by Rule 1.83(a).

As far as the Draftsperson Review Form, we have amended the drawings in a manner believed to address all of the noted informalities, and have submitted herewith four replacement drawing sheets.

In light of the above, we respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

- You rejected claims 1-5, 10, and 11, under §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,726,263 to Lake (hereinafter Lake) in view of US Patent 6,419,371 to McCalla (hereinafter

McCalla). We respectfully traverse this rejection because the references fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

Claim 1 sets forth a handle section having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein a tool receiving socket is located at the proximal end, and an open-and-close section is located at the distal end. By way of non-limiting example, as shown in Fig. 1, one embodiment of the invention consistent with that set forth in claim 1 is an extender arm comprising a handle section 10 having at its proximal end a tool receiving socket 14, and having at its distal end an open-and-close section 30.

As set forth in the specification, the open-and-close section 30 may be formed in the manner of gripping fingers such as disclosed in US Patent 6,520,556—incorporated into the present specification by reference thereto. See, for example, the present specification at the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9. Further, the open-and-close section may be formed as a pliers, scissors, or the like. Again, see the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9.

In contrast to that set forth in claim 1, Lake fails to teach or suggest an open-and-close section. You cite gripping end 12 or lever arm 15 as the open-and-close section as claimed. However, gripping end 12 does not open and close. Instead, it is configured in the manner of a bicycle handle grip 21. Moreover, lever arm 15 does not open and close but, instead, serves as a spring to bias lock spring button 13 within holes 14. Moreover, lever arm 15 is disposed within the sleeve side 10a of the handle 10 so that it may not grip or interact with anything outside of the tool. Accordingly, Lake fails to teach or suggest an open-and-close-section as claimed.

You cite McCalla as teaching a device with tools on both ends, the handle section having a socket. However, McCalla fails to teach an open-and-close section as claimed.

Therefore, for the sake of argument alone, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine McCalla and Lake as you have suggested, any such combination would still not teach or suggest an open-and-close section as we have claimed.

For at least any of the above reasons, Lake and McCalla fail to render obvious our independent claim 1. Likewise, these references fail to render obvious our dependent claims 2-5, 10, and 11. However, for the following additional reasons, we respectfully traverse this rejection as it applies to claims 3 and 5.

Claim 3 sets forth that the open-and-close section is a gripping section. Again, as set forth in the specification, by way of non-limiting example, the gripping section is in the manner of a pliers, or gripping fingers as in US Patent 6,520,556, i.e., something that would allow a user to grasp onto an object; not something that allows the user to grasp the tool. In contrast to that set forth in claim 3, Lake teaches that the gripping end 12 is in the manner of a bicycle handle grip 21, which allows the user to grip the tool.

Claim 5 sets forth that the extender-arm further comprises a rechargeable power supply. In contrast to that set forth in claim 5, McCalla merely discloses a generic power source. Specifically, McCalla teaches that his light module 50 may include a power means for energizing the light source 60, wherein the power means can be any energy source such as chemical energy or electrical energy, even batteries. See col. 5, lines 47-58. However, McCalla does not specifically teach or suggest that the power supply is rechargeable, as set forth in claim 5.

- You rejected claims 6-8 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lake in view of McCalla, and further in view of US Patent 6,390,427 to McConnell (hereinafter McConnell). We respectfully traverse this rejection because the references fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

As noted above, your suggested combination of Lake and McCalla is deficient. Further, McConnell does nothing to cure the above-noted deficiencies. Accordingly, for the sake of argument alone, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine the references as you suggest, any such combination would still not teach or suggest all the elements as claimed.

- You rejected claim 9 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lake in view of McCalla, and further in view of US Patent 6,419,371 to Kalidindi (hereinafter Kalidindi). We respectfully traverse this rejection because the references fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

As noted above, your suggested combination of Lake and McCalla is deficient. Further, Kalidindi does nothing to cure the above-noted deficiencies. Accordingly, for the sake of argument alone, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine

the references as you suggest, any such combination would still not teach or suggest all the elements as claimed.

- You rejected claim 12 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lake in view of McCalla, and further in view of US Patent 6,419,371 to Miller (hereinafter Miller). We respectfully traverse this rejection because the references fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

As noted above, your suggested combination of Lake and McCalla is deficient. Further, Miller does nothing to cure the above-noted deficiencies. Accordingly, for the sake of argument alone, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine the references as you suggest, any such combination would still not teach or suggest all the elements as claimed.

- You rejected claim 13 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lake in view of McCalla, and further in view of US Patent 5,116,093 to Burns (hereinafter Burns). We respectfully traverse this rejection because the references fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

As noted above, your suggested combination of Lake and McCalla is deficient. Further, Burns does nothing to cure the above-noted deficiencies. Accordingly, for the sake of argument alone, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine the references as you suggest, any such combination would still not teach or suggest all the elements as claimed.

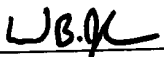
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
US Appln. 10/626,529

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Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



David B. Johnson

Telephone:

Date: February 22, 2005